

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A recording medium, comprising:  
a user data area where user data is stored;  
at least one spare area for replacement of defective units of the user data area; and  
a defect management information area where defect management information for a defective unit of the user data area is stored, wherein the defect management information includes information representing whether replacement or non-replacement of the defective unit by linear replacement is required, wherein if the defect management information indicates that the defective unit is not to be replaced by linear replacement then the defective unit is not replaced even if the defective unit was previously designated for linear replacement.
2. The recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein a flag, representing that a linear replacement of the recording medium has been performed, is stored as a reserved bit of a secondary defect list (SDL) of the recording medium.
3. The recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein a flag, representing that a linear replacement of a recording medium has not been performed, is stored as a set bit of a secondary defect list (SDL) of the recording medium.
4. The recording medium of claim 1, wherein information representing replacement of the defective unit includes positions of the defective unit and a corresponding replacement unit.